

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 EUR-12 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
-----021637 190323Z /73
R 171530Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 104
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS FACES FIRST CRISIS

1. THE NEW NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS (NLC) IS FACING
ITS FIRST CRISIS AS THE RESULT OF AN INVITATION
FROM THE ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (AUCCTU)
IN THE SOVIET UNION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION IN MOSCOW.

2. A MEETING OF THE NLC'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHICH
WAS ATTENDED BY THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT ON
AUGUST 16 IN LAGOS, ENDED IN CONFUSION AS FORMER MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED LABOR CONGRESS (ULC) STRONGLY OBJECTED TO CONSIDERATION
BEING GIVEN TO NLC PARTICIPATION IN WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A
"POLITICAL RALLY OF THE COMMUNIST BLOC." THEY INSISTED IT WAS
A "POLITICAL INVITATION" AND WAS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE NLC. PRESIDENT SUNMONU DEFENCED THE INVITATION AND WAS
SUPPORTED BY OTHER FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NIGERIA TRADE UNION
CONGRESS (NTUC) WHO HELD THAT THE AUCCTU "IS A STRONG TRADE
UNION ORGANIZATION" AND THE INVITATION SHOULD BE HONORED.

3. WHEN THE MEETING BECAME ROWDY, PRESIDENT SUNMONU CALLED FOR
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ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW TENSIONS TO SUBSIDE. ULC MEMBERS, HOWEVER,
SAID THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND ANOTHER MEETING IF THE INVITATION
WERE TO BE TABLED AGAIN AND THREATENED TO PROTEST TO THE FMG
IF NLC DESIGNATED SOMEONE TO ATTEND THE ANNIVERSARY. THEY WARNED
PRESIDENT SUNMONU TO DESIS FROM PLAYING POLITICS IF HE WANTS
TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND UNITY WITHIN THE NLC.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT WAS INFORMED THE INVITATION WAS CHanneled THROUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LAGOS AND HANDED OVER TO PRESIDENT SUNMONU IN HIS OFFICE ON AUGUST 7, 1978 BY FIRST SECRETARY K. MOROSOV (THE DIPLOMATIC LIST SHOWS A KIRIL A. MOROSOV AS FIRST SECRETARY).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS10221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0416
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780854/aaaabtgh.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83aefc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1712352
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS FACES FIRST CRISIS
TAGS: ELAB, NI, UR, NLC, NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83aefc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014